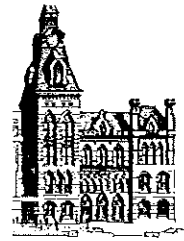




John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**
165 Church Street, New Haven, CT 06510
Phone (203)-946-8200, Fax (203)-946-7683



**Testimony of the City of New Haven
Submitted to the Higher Education and Employment Committee**

Regarding
S.B. No. 291 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SYSTEM

Submitted by
City of New Haven
March 6, 2012

The City of New Haven would like to express our strong support for SB 291, which will “further develop, enhance and expand employment opportunities for youth, support career pathways to provide youth and young adults with education, skills and access to good jobs and successful careers.”

Through continued support from the Department of Labor Youth Employment Program, the City of New Haven, as a sub-recipient of the Workforce Alliance, has developed a successful Youth@Work program. The program combines federal, state and local dollars to provide year-round and summer employment opportunities for area youth. In addition to linking youth with employment, the program offers a wide range of key life skills including:

- **Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills:** To help prepare students for later careers, each applicant for Youth@Work is required to fill out an application, create a resume and complete a mini interview.
- **Job Skills:** Prior to each session youth participate in a job skills sessions, where they are coached in the importance of punctuality, proper attire and a positive attitude.
- **Financial Literacy:** All participants are encouraged to have a bank account and learn basic financial literacy. Last year our partner, START Bank, held a contest and awarded an iPad to the participant who saved the most over the summer months.

SB 291 recognizes the importance that youth employment has in the overall youth services and education models. The bill will build upon the DOL Youth Employment programs to develop programs that provide in-depth support services including education and skill training in key areas such as teamwork, leadership ability, oral and written communication proficiency and ethical responsibility.

We thank you for your continued support of youth employment and strongly support SB 291 and the Department of Labor Youth Employment Program.